

Wing Commander at Barksdale Air Force Base, he launched and recovered a historic B-52 and KC-10 flight to Russia. It was also at Barksdale that General Lichte, then a Colonel serving as the 458th Operations Group Commander, deployed and commanded a large KC-10 contingent at an austere Middle East location to support Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and RESTORE HOPE.

By August 1995, then Colonel Arthur J. Lichte became Commander of the 92nd Air Refueling Wing (ARW) at Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane, WA, which was at the time the largest air refueling wing in the Air Force. That year, aircraft from Fairchild flew in support of its first Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) mission, transporting Russian inspectors to sites in the Western U.S. The wing has flown START missions in the U.S. every year since. Successful leadership of the 92nd ARW at Fairchild also led to his promotion to brigadier general.

Brigadier General Lichte soon after was sent to command the 89th Airlift Wing at Andrews Air Force Base, which represents the Air Force to the American people in meetings with presidents and other world dignitaries. In between his successful stint at the 89th Airlift Wing and taking command of the Air Mobility Command, General Lichte served as AMC's Director of Plans and Programs, USAF's Vice Commander, and an Assistant Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force.

Notwithstanding an illustrious career with the United States Air Force, General Lichte counts his family and 40-year marriage to his wife Chris, as well as being a grandfather, as his proudest achievements.

Madam Speaker, General Arthur J. Lichte's selfless dedication to the service of his country is honorable and worthy of recognition. I believe I can speak for the Airmen of Air Mobility Command and the United States Air Force in saying that his dedication has positively impacted those with whom he has served during his years with the Air Force and I join them in congratulating him on his retirement and a job well done.

KATHLEEN ALLEN

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and applaud Kathleen Allen for her outstanding service to our community.

Kathleen Allen is an incredible tri-athlete who has overcome a severe injury to again compete in her sport and win. Kathleen's work with Girls on the Run furthers women's issues by "educating and preparing girls for a lifetime of self respect and healthy living."

The dedication demonstrated by Kathleen Allen directly benefits her community, and is exemplary of high personal and professional standards. Kathleen has spent countless hours volunteering with JeffCo Parents Focus on School Nutrition, a group which lobbies for improved school nutrition. In addition, Kathleen has volunteered abroad, spending time in Tanzania bringing technology to hospitals and schools in that country.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kathleen Allen for her recognition by

the West Chamber of Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

### HONORING EDWARD C. BLOMMEL OF DADE CITY, FLORIDA

### HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2009*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edward C. Blommel of Dade City, Florida. After 40 years of dedicated service to Tampa Electric Company and Pasco County, Edward has gracefully retired.

Born in Dade City on February 25, 1949, Mr. Blommel attended Pasco Hernando Community College. Today he is married to his wife of 35 years, Libby, and they have two grown children, Nancy and Nicholas.

Beginning his career with Tampa Electric at the age of 20 as a meter reader, Mr. Blommel eventually worked his way into management positions in customer service, energy services, and marketing. Later his responsibilities grew to include community relations, governmental affairs, and economic development for Pasco County in the areas of Dade City, San Antonio, and the town of St. Leo.

Mr. Blommel has been very active in Pasco County, having served on the boards of United Way of Pasco, Pasco Regional Medical Center, Jobs, Education and Partnership Boards in Pasco and Hernando Counties, Downtown Dade City Main Street, East Pasco Habitat for Humanity, and Pasco Education Foundation.

He has served on the Pasco Hernando Community College Foundation Board of Directors since 1998, which he chaired from 2006 to 2008. He also serves on the Dade City Redevelopment Advisory Committee and Pasco County MPO Citizens Advisory Council. In addition, he is the past president and an active member of the Dade City Rotary Club.

Mr. Blommel has championed county-wide economic development, always encouraging being locally united, as exhibited through his service to Pasco Economic Development Council, serving on its board since 1995, including its presidency in 1998.

Madam Speaker, it is public servants like Edward C. Blommel that keep our communities and towns running strong. His dedication and willingness to serve are admired and stand as a model to others. We thank Mr. Blommel for his service and wish him the best in his retirement.

### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2009*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, this morning our national debt was \$11,991,506,876,413.07. We have added \$2,628,074,721.89 to the national debt since Friday, the 6th.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,353,081,130,119.27 so far this year.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the forecast deficit for this year is \$1.6 trillion. That means that so far this year, we have borrowed and spent an average \$4.4 billion a day more than we have collected, passing that debt and its interest payments to our children and all future Americans.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2009*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor on Wednesday, November 4, 2009.

Had I been present on Wednesday, November 4, 2009, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 841 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 884), "no" on rollcall vote No. 842 (on agreeing to H. Res. 884, which provides for consideration of H.R. 3639), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 843 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 858), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 844 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 839).

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2009*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, on November 4, 2009, I was not able to be present for votes on amendments to H.R. 3639, the Expedited CARD Reform for Consumers Act of 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on: rollcall 845, rollcall 846, rollcall 847, rollcall 848, and rollcall 849.

On November 6, 2009, I was not able to be present for votes on amendments to H.R. 2868, the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act of 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 869, and I would have voted "no" on: rollcall 870, rollcall 871, rollcall 872, and rollcall 873.

### KRISTEN ANDERSON

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and applaud Kristen Anderson for her outstanding service to our community.

Kirsten Anderson is Senior Vice President and Business Banking Manager for Wells Fargo in the metropolitan area of Denver. She has worked with Wells Fargo for 22 years and has filled many positions in the company.

Kirsten Anderson's dedication to her community is demonstrated by her sense of social responsibility and the many organizations she is affiliated with, including the Executive Committees of Red Rocks Community College